

ONTARIO INSTITUTION
FOR THE
EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,
BRANTFORD, ONT., CANADA.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF

INSPECTOR LANGMUIR;

PRINCIPAL DYMOND;

DR. W. C. CORSON, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1881.



Brantford,

PRINTED AT THE EXPOSITOR STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTING HOUSE.

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REPORT

Of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities

— UPON THE —

Institution for the Education of the Blind, Brantford,

For the Year ending 30th September, 1881.

The number of pupils admitted to this Institution during the past official year was 201, as compared with 203 in the preceding twelve months. The official year, it should be stated, covers a portion of two school sessions ; and in the one under report the largest portion of the ninth session, which opened on the 9th September, 1880, and closed on the 15th June, 1881, but only a fortnight of the 10th session, viz., from the 14th September to the close of the official year on the 30th of September, is included. The ninth session closed with 176 pupils on the register ; but, for reasons given in the minutes of inspection, hereafter recorded, the number of pupils admitted since the opening of the tenth session has undergone a considerable reduction, and only reached 143 at the close of the official year ; but at the time of writing this report the number was increased to 149.

Since the opening of the Institution in 1872, up to the close of the past year, 308 blind youths have been under instruction. The following information respecting the manner in which the relationship of a number of these pupils with the Institution was terminated, is compiled from the official register, viz. :-

Graduated from the Literary and Musical Departments.....	9
Graduated from the Industrial Department.....	2
Graduated from the Literary and Industrial Departments combined..	31
Died since the opening of the Institution.....	5
Not re-admitted owing to defective intellect.....	6
Removed beyond the Province	1
Left by reason of improved or recovered sight.....	32
Left for various reasons, without completing the seven years' course..	59
Refused re-admission, owing to advanced years and other reasons....	14
Remaining under instruction on the 30th September, 1881	143
Returned to Institution since 30th September, 1881	6

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These 308 blind youths were received into the Institution from the following counties and cities: -

CITY OR COUNTY.	Male.	Female.	Total.	CITY OR COUNTY.	Male.	Female.	Total.
City of Belleville	3	3	6	County of Durham.....	1	3	4
County of Brant.....	3	3	6	" Elgin	2	1	3
City of Brantford	4	4	8	" Essex	2	4	6
County of Bruce	4	6	10	" Frontenac	2	1	3
" Carleton	1	1	2	" Glengarry.....	2	....	2
" Dundas	2	2	4	" Grenville.....	2	....	2
" Grey.....	5	6	11	City of Ottawa	3	....	3
City of Guelph.....	1	2	3	County of Oxford	2	1	3
County of Halton.....	4	4	8	" Perth.....	2	7	9
" Halton	2	....	2	" Peterborough.....	7	2	9
City of Hamilton.....	6	7	13	" Prince Edward	3	2	5
County of Hastings.....	4	1	5	" Renfrew	6	3	9
" Huron.....	5	5	10	" Russell	1	1	2
City of Kingston.....	2	2	4	City of St. Catharines	2	....	2
County of Kent	6	1	10	County of Simcoe	4	6	10
" Lambton	3	1	4	" Stormont.....	2	....	2
" Leeds.....	7	1	8	City of Toronto	9	11	20
" Lanark	1	1	2	County of Victoria	4	1	5
" Lennox and Addington...	2	1	3	" Waterloo	4	3	7
" Lincoln.....	8	1	4	" Welland	2	1	3
City of London	4	7	11	" Wellington	7	5	12
County of Middlesex	7	5	12	" Wentworth	6	5	11
District of Muskoka	1	....	1	" York	7	6	13
County of Norfolk	4	4	8	Province of Quebec	2	....	2
" Northumberland	1	6	7	Total Admissions.....	168	140	308
" Ontario	4	3	7				

The usual statistics in regard to these 308 blind persons will be found in the tables attached to the Principal's report. From these will be obtained the nationalities and religions of the pupils, together with the ages at which they were first admitted to the Institution, and the occupations of the parents.

The following statistics, showing the ages at which blindness occurred and the reported causes of the same, have been collected from the register of the Institution, and from the answers to the queries which have to be made before admission is awarded;—

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AGES AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED.

Born blind	77
Became blind at or under one year.....	62
" from one to five years.....	43
" " five to ten years	53
" " ten to fifteen years.....	42
" " fifteen to twenty years.....	19
" when over twenty years	9
Not reported	3

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It will be seen from the above summary that one-fourth of the number of pupils who were admitted to the Institution were born blind, and that nearly another fourth became so at or under one year. Of the remaining cases, 43 became blind between one and five years of age; 53 between five and ten; and 70 when they were over ten years of age.

REPORTED CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

Ophthalmia.....	25	Epilepsy.....	1
Accident	41	Weakness	1
Consanguinity.....	23	Sunstroke	1
Fevers	19	Whooping cough.....	1
Inflammation	48	Headache	1
Weakness of eyes	1	Scrofula	3
Contraction of pupil	1	Congestion of brain.....	1
Neglect	1	Dropsy of eyes	1
Malpractice	7	Paralysis	2
Cold.....	11	Ulcer.....	1
Amaurosis	8	Water on the brain	1
Cataract	9	Teething	1
Measles	5	Pain in the head.....	1
Small-pox.....	6	Unknown	80
Fits.....	2	No report.....	1
Erysipelas	2		
Vaccination	2		

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INVESTIGATION.

In the beginning of the year it became necessary to hold an investigation into the causes of antagonism and want of harmony that had sprung up between the officers, teachers, and a large number of the pupils and the Principal.

The evidence taken at the enquiry, which it should be stated was commenced at the request of the Principal, was, along with my report thereon, laid before the Government. The result was the retirement of Mr. Hunter from the Principalship of the Institution, and his acceptance of the position of Inspector of Insurance for Ontario, and the appointment of Mr. A. H. Dymond to the vacant position.

Certain defects in the management of the respective departments of the Institution came to light during the investigation, to remedy which, as well as to provide for the general good government of the Institution, new By-laws were framed by me under the provisions of chapter 222, sections 6 and 7, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. These By-laws, which were approved by Order in Council, dated 1st September, 1881, repealed all existing by-laws, and set forth of whom the staff of the Institution shall consist, and specifically defined the duties and responsibilities of the Principal, the Bursar, the Physician, the Matron, the Teachers and Instructors, the Engineer, the Gardener, and the

Night Watchman. They also provided for the framing of supplementary rules by the Principal for the guidance of servants, and for the general routine of duty throughout the Institution.

At the time of writing this report, I am glad to be able to report that harmony has been completely restored in the working of the Institution, and that, except during the partial interruption resulting in the enquiry referred to, it has continued to carry out its design of educating and instructing the blind youths of this Province in a very satisfactory manner.

INSPECTIONS.

In addition to two protracted visits which were made to the Institution on the occasion of the investigation referred to, two inspections were also made. The following are the more important portions of the minutes made on those occasions.

An inspection of the Institution was made on the 27th May, when 175 pupils were under instruction, viz., 87 males and 88 females. The register shows that during this session (which closes on the 15th June) 94 boys and 95 girls—or a total of 189—have been admitted; but 3 were sent home on account of sickness, and 11 at request of their parents, for various reasons. Of these 189 pupils, 16 are orphans, and as such are clothed and maintained by the Province; and in 31 instances the parents were in such indigent circumstances that they could not provide clothing, which in consequence formed a charge upon the Institution funds.

No payments under the by-law have been made for board during the past session or the two previous ones, so that the Institution may as well be declared by Order in Council to be free to all blind youths of a proper age—a course which will again be recommended to the Government.

At this visit I carefully checked the register of the Institution, and saw all the inmates. This was chiefly done for the purpose of determining what pupils should not be readmitted to the Institution at the ensuing session. There are four classes of inmates to be dealt with in this respect, viz. :—

First—Over-age pupils who have been under instruction in the Institution for seven full terms, as provided for in the By-laws.

Second—Over-age pupils who have not yet been under instruction for seven years.

Third—Pupils who, owing to imbecility or weakmindedness, are incapable of receiving, to the full extent, the benefits of instruction in the Institution.

Fourth—Pupils who can see sufficiently well to be taught in the common schools or at home.

Regarding the over-age pupils, there are 26 males and 38 females (or a total of 64)—being no less than one-third of the entire population. Some of these were admitted to the Institution before attaining the age of 21 years, and such will be allowed to remain from session to session as their parents or guardians may desire and the Government approve. The pupils named in the list attached, however, will have been under instruction at the close of the present session for seven terms and over, and cannot again be admitted. The Principal will see that their parents and guardians are notified to that effect. The 4 male pupils named in list No. 2, having thoroughly learned the willow trade, will graduate from that shop this year, and will not be readmitted. The remaining over-age pupils will again be admitted, and from session to session, upon the report of the Principal, subject to the approval of the Inspector.

In dealing with the imbecile and weakminded some difficulty is experienced, inasmuch as the discipline and healthy regimen of the Institution conduces to improve their physical condition and personal habits, although they may remain quite stationary in the literary and industrial departments. Only those, therefore, who have been in residence for the full term of seven sessions, and those who are beyond all doubt so weak minded as to be incapable of receiving any benefit whatever from remaining, will be prohibited from re-entering.

With respect to the fourth class of pupils, the Oculist, who was instructed to examine certain pupils, reports that 8 are seeing pupils, who can finish their education in the common schools of the Province.

The Principal will see that the parents or guardians of the pupils named are notified that they cannot be re-admitted.

The Oculist having reported that several pupils would be benefited by operations and treatment in the Mercer Eye and Ear Infirmary, Toronto, and the parents of such pupils having been communicated with, authority is given to the Principal to have them transferred to that Institution at the close of the session.

The condition of the buildings at this visit was very good, so far as order and cleanliness are concerned : but as there were some very necessary alterations and improvements required, which could be only carried on during the vacation, the Principal was authorized to proceed with the work in accordance with the detailed instructions. A contract was also given to Samuel Warren & Son for the building of a pipe organ, for which an appropriation had been voted by the Legislature.

My last inspection of the Institution was made on the 30th September and 1st October, being two weeks after the opening of the tenth session. The following minutes were entered in the inspection book.

"There are now under instruction 81 males and 62 females, a total of 143, of whom 8 have not attended in any previous session, and 5 have been re-admitted after the lapse of one or more sessions. As compared with the population of the Institution at the corresponding period of last session, there is a decrease of 31 pupils, which is chiefly owing to three causes, viz.:—First, the graduation of pupils who had completed their course of study in the classes and workshops ; second, the refusal to re-admit a considerable number of over-age pupils, or rather men and women, whose further stay in the Institution could not be of benefit to themselves nor in all probability to the other pupils ; and third, the non-admission of a few pupils whose sight was sufficiently good to warrant such action, or whose deficient mental capacities rendered them unfit to derive benefit from instruction. At the present time there are only 30 pupils over the age of 21 years, as compared with 45 at the close of last session.

"As authorized at the time of my last inspection, 7 pupils were sent to the Andrew Mercer Eye and Ear Infirmary attached to the Toronto General Hospital, and the Medical Superintendent of that Hospital reports that one of these pupils has been so much improved by treatment that he will not require to return to the Institution ; that four others have been discharged improved ; that one has much improved ; and that one will require to undergo another operation.

"The experience and technical knowledge which the Institution Physician has received since the opening of the Institution will enable him in future to conduct the examination of the pupils' eyes without engaging the services of a special oculist.

"I have seen all the pupils when in the dining-room, school-room, and other parts of the building. Their appearance, particularly that of the girls, is very satisfactory, and is better, as far as clothing is concerned, than at any previous visit made so soon after the opening of the session. Only one pupil was absent from meals, showing that the health of the pupils is good.

"The classes in the Literary Department are now taught by 2 male and 3 female teachers, one of the former being also teacher of calisthenics. The Musical Department, as reorganized under instructions given to the Principal, has now on the staff 1 male and 3 female teachers, besides a monitorial female teacher and a male instructor in piano-tuning. There are 3 instructors in the Industrial Department ; 1 in willow-working and cane-seating ; 1 in machine and hand-knitting ; and 1 in machine and hand-sewing ; besides two monitorial instructors to assist them. The foregoing staff of teachers and instructors, comprising 5 males and 9 females, is sufficient for 175 pupils. Now that the incapable and partially defective pupils have been weeded out, it will be expected that a very marked improvement will be reported in the standing of the classes, both in the literary and musical departments, after the next annual examinations, and it is to be

hoped those teachers now on probation will prove themselves to be possessed of such qualifications and abilities as will justify their permanent appointment.

"The class-rooms are in good order, and are generally well equipped, except that it will be necessary to provide a better stock of raised maps, and the Principal is requested to report upon the best method of obtaining what is necessary in this respect.

"The pipe organ, for which a contract was entered into with Messrs. Warren & Son, is now completed and set up in the Music Hall. An examination of it has been made by a competent organist, and he certifies that the conditions of the contract and specifications have been fully complied with. An order will therefore be given for the payment of the bill. Although the organ has only been placed in position a few days, 6 boys are now receiving instruction upon it—2 boys at a time for one hour per day. It appears to me that a very careful selection should be made of the pupils who are to receive instruction in organ playing, and that only those should be taken who have a great aptitude and liking for the instrument, and are likely to attain to such proficiency as would enable them after leaving the Institution to take positions as organists.

"All the pianos and reed organs in the Institution have been put in good order, but two more instruments are required, for which an appropriation will be recommended.

"The condition of the building is, upon the whole, very satisfactory, in point of cleanliness and good order. Since my last visit the improvements authorized have been made in the interior of the building. All the halls—including the transepts—in the old building, have been refloored with hardwood; the floor of the reception room has also been relaid in the same manner, and it has been furnished with the willow furniture made by the pupils. There are also some other improvements noticeable in the way of painting and whitewashing.

"External improvements have also been gone on with, comprising chiefly the new opening into the grounds, and the building of a sidewalk along the Paris road. The ornamental portions of the grounds continue to improve in appearance as the trees planted there grow larger; but a good deal of planting will yet have to be done, and an appropriation will be asked for the purchase of trees, etc. Notwithstanding the very dry season, the product of the farm and garden has been good, and so far as potatoes and roots are concerned there will be a sufficient stock for the wants of the Institution.

"The milk supply, although fair, is not what it should be, seeing that there so many children here who need plenty of milk. The Principal will be good enough to give this matter his consideration, with a view to increasing the yield of milk to not less than 60 quarts per day, but without adding to the number of cows. This can be done by exchanging the inferior animals.

"A good many things in the way of furniture and furnishings, as well as renewals of the same, must be provided for: there is also a good deal of painting and papering required about the building.

"In order that the additional space, so much required in this Institution, may be obtained, it will be recommended that an addition be made to the present rear structure, of which the ground floor shall be taken for kitchen, store-room and laundry purposes, and the first floor for a gymnasium, which is greatly needed. In order to provide a convenient entrance to the gymnasium, it would be necessary to extend the hall now leading to the dining-room, through that room and the room attached thereto. If the addition be built, the present kitchen and laundry could be made into one large room by the removal of the interior partitions, except the chimney, which would make a commodious and cheerful dining-room for the boys and girls together; it would also require to be ceiled and plastered. The present dining-rooms could be used for play-rooms for the boys and girls respectively, and for such other purposes as might be found needful.

"In the rear of this proposed addition, I will recommend that a boiler-house be built, and in connection with it a proper coal-shed, the back of the latter to be against the lane, so that the coal can be delivered into it through bunk openings.

"It also seems desirable that a sidewalk should be laid down the centre of the lot in a line with the lodge-house, in order to provide a walk for the boys.

"I find that the tank at the pumping house can be exhausted in two hours' pumping, and sometimes before the house tanks are filled. I also find that there is an overflow from the spring of not less than the capacity of a two-inch pipe, which shows that there is ample water from the spring to keep another tank full. I will therefore recommend that the Public Works Department place another tank, fourteen feet by six feet in size, at the pumping-house.

"If the other wing be added to the Institution, it will also be necessary to increase the tank capacity in the building by about 7,000 gallons."

EXAMINATIONS OF THE LITERARY CLASSES.

When the change in the Principalship of the Institution was made it was thought desirable that the exact standing of the pupils in the various literary classes should be enquired into, not only that their exact state in that respect might be ascertained in passing them over to the new Principal, but that the means of comparison with future terms might be obtained. Moreover, as the annual examination of the pupils at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, by competent examiners, had proved very successful in bringing up the standard of proficiency and in securing a better classification of the scholars, I was of the opinion that similar results would be obtained at the Institution for the Blind, if the same system were adopted. To that end I recommended that the classes should be examined by two skilled educationists before the session closed, and that such examinations should be made every year. The Government delegated the work to Dr. Kelly, Public School Inspector for Brant, and Mr. Wilkinson, M.A., Principal of the Brantford Central School. The result of their examination is contained in the following report:—

"The undersigned, appointed to examine the pupils at the Institute for the Blind at Brantford, in the literary subjects taught therein, have the honor to submit for your consideration the following Report:

"The examination began on the 25th of May, at 9 o'clock p.m.: was continued during the two following days, and concluded on Tuesday, the 31st.

"During the forenoon of the first day, the various class-rooms were visited with the view of observing the methods of instruction pursued by the several teachers, and the state of order, discipline, and management that prevailed. On the afternoon of the same day we proceeded regularly with the examination.

"The examination was necessarily oral for the most part, a few of Mr. Wickens' pupils alone being examined in writing. The class-lists herewith submitted, and the general summary, indicate as nearly as possible the relative proficiency of the pupils, and, to some extent, the merits of the work done by the several teachers.

"CLASSES.—The class in *English Literature*, taught by Miss Montgomery, did remarkably well, shewing a competent knowledge of the subject, as far as they had received instruction therein. The pupils had a fair knowledge of the lives of the authors whose works they had studied, knew something of their contemporaries, and were able to quote from memory both in verse and prose. The same teacher's class in *History* passed likewise a creditable examination, inferior, however, somewhat to that in literature. In *Geography*, the next subject taken up, Mr. Wickens' class did good work, as may be seen by a reference to the class-lists. Several of Miss Edgar's pupils, examined in the same subject, evinced a satisfactory knowledge of it. The class, however, as a whole, was somewhat unequal, several of the pupils being of defective understanding.

"In *Arithmetic*, four classes were examined. These are under the care respectively of Mr. Wickens and the Misses Montgomery, Edgar and Ross. The results may be seen in the attached lists.

"*Reading*.—In this subject Miss Montgomery has two classes—one reading the embossed and the other the point print. Of these, the pupils in the former are the more fluent readers. Miss Edgar has three classes in reading. The first (or highest) read in a book called the *Seventh Reader*; the second in the *Fourth Reader*; and the third are at the *Alphabet*. Several of the last class are unable to distinguish the letters.

Miss Ross has four classes under her charge. The first is reading from the "Arabian Nights;" the second, little stories such as "Puss in Boots;" the third, words of one syllable; and the fourth are at the Alphabet.

"*Writing*"—Writing is under the charge of Mr. Wickens, Miss Montgomery, Miss Ross and Miss Edgar. The pupils in the several classes nearly all write ordinary script, and on the whole very fairly.

"*Grammar*" Two classes were examined in English Grammar—one in Mr. Wickens' room, and the other in Miss Ross's. We learned that this important subject had not been regularly taught for some time, incidental instruction only having been given in it in connection with other subjects. Mr. Wickens' class in *point print, dictation*, and *spelling* were examined, and acquitted themselves fairly.

"Our impression is that the teaching staff of the Institute, in the literary subjects, is an efficient one, and that its members, as far as our observation has extended, discharge their duties with fidelity and zeal.

"The Principal, on several occasions during the examination, invited the teachers to meet your examiners in order to state their difficulties, and make any suggestions that they might consider of use in promoting the better management and the greater efficiency of the classes under their charge.

"On Tuesday, the 31st of May, we held a prolonged consultation with the Principal and his staff, for the purpose of investigating further their present method of working, organization and management, with the view of getting more definite information on these points than we had before.

"**2. MARKING** We recommend that, in marking the pupils, the marks for proficiency and conduct, heretofore combined, should be separate, and that a record of them should be kept.

"**3. CLASSIFICATION**—We found the classification exceedingly defective. Possibly the introduction of the system of grading which prevails in Public and High Schools would be difficult here. Still we think there is room for improvement. For instance, we found pupils in the higher classes in some subjects, and in the lower in others; and in the same subject and class those of capacities and attainments widely differing—some having no knowledge of the work in hand, being taught in connection with others who were fairly proficient. This we consider might and ought to be remedied. Again, we found nine reading classes, when four, or at most five, ought to be sufficient. To teach four reading classes in the same room within the space of fifty minutes, and to make the teaching of any real use to those taught, seems to us a work of considerable difficulty. In such a case much of the teacher's time is almost necessarily dissipated, and her attention distracted by being forced to keep an eye upon two or three other classes while one is receiving instruction. Moreover, there are several who are incapable (or nearly so) of instruction, and the presence of these seems to retard the progress of the rest. This difficulty might be obviated by judicious weeding out, and the enlargement of the classes.

"We would recommend that the pupils be so graded as to constitute five classes; that one of these be a special class, composed of those alluded to above as retarding the progress of the rest; that the pupils of each grade should be as nearly as possible of equal attainments; and that periodical examinations be held for promotion from one grade to another.

"We would also respectfully recommend that a second History class be established, and two classes in English Grammar, and that the History and Literature classes consist of the same members. Zoology, Physiology, and Botany, which are taught in similar institutions elsewhere, might, we think, be introduced with advantage here, and suitable objects being provided, could be rendered of great service to the pupils.

"**4. LIMIT TABLE.**—We have not been able to find that any definite Limit Table has been in use in the Institute, the teachers doing what they could apparently without any clear notion of either the beginning or end of their labors. It is recommended that a suitable Limit Table be made out, indicating a Session's work, for the guidance of the teaching staff. We should be glad to render assistance, if needed, in drawing up such a table.

"5. OBJECTIVE TEACHING.—As the blind may be said to see with their fingers, supplemented by the other senses, the importance of object-teaching in their case cannot be overestimated. In order to distinctness and accuracy of conception, it is found to be necessary even in the case of seeing pupils; how much more necessary, then, when those who are deprived of vision altogether are under instruction? During the examination, the importance of this system of teaching presented itself often, and occasionally in a ludicrous manner. One pupil had accurately spelled the word "brass," but had no notion what the thing itself was. Another, on being asked how many legs a chicken had, promptly answered "four." In the Geography, one pupil described South America as pear-shaped, having evidently been taught objectively; while another described the outline of Africa as square, evidently from the want of such teaching. During the examination in this subject, we used the dissected maps, and several pupils were able to name from their shape many of the English counties and States of the American Union. One or two teachers in the Institute have improvised objects, but there has been no regular system of object teaching pursued. We therefore beg to recommend that suitable objects be provided to illustrate the subjects taught in the various classes.

"6. HOURS OF TEACHING.—According to the present arrangement of time, the interval between breakfast and assembling in class-rooms is rather long. If the pupils were called together for study at 8:30 a. m., the bulk of the literary work for the day might, we think, be finished by 12:30 p. m., allowing intermissions of ten minutes between each hour for change of classes. Again, assembling at 2 p. m., the afternoon session might be devoted to writing, object lessons proper, girls' and boys' work, music, and gymnastics.

"7. PHYSICAL TRAINING.—Physical exercise is something in which the blind do not indulge, and there is no gymnasium attached to the Institute for its encouragement. During the recess, as we had opportunities for observing, the pupils are in the habit of lounging about the corridors and grounds, meeting in groups here and there (the spring being a favorable haunt), certainly not improving themselves—either mentally or morally—when they might be beneficially employed, and be gaining additional strength in suitable physical exercises. The erection of a gymnasium is desirable, as well as the services of an efficient teacher of gymnastics, who might, in addition to instruction in physical training, take his share of the literary work.

"In concluding this Report, we have to thank the Principal of the Institute for the uniform attention and courtesy shown us during the whole examination.

"Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

(Signed)

"Brantford, June 4th, 1881."

"M. J. KELLY,
"WM. WILKINSON, | Examiners.

A similar course was pursued in regard to the Music Classes of the Institution, and Mr. Edward Fisher, of Toronto, was appointed to conduct the examination. His Report is as follows:

"In accordance with your instructions, I visited the Institution for the Blind, at Brantford, on Friday, June 10th, for the purpose of making an inspection of the Musical Department connected therewith, and now have the honor to present my Report.

"The limited time allotted to me in which to make the examination did not afford an opportunity of my seeing all the classes in operation.

"The object of this first visit, however, being not so much to ascertain the attainments or progression of individual pupils, as to get as accurate an idea as possible of the general efficiency of the Department, I believe that my stay was long enough to accomplish, in a reasonable degree, the end in view.

"I found the work of the Department to be in the hands of four teachers, namely, one master, who has charge of the Singing, Theory, Tuning, and Pipe-organ classes, and who teaches in the Institution from 10 to 1 o'clock four days in the week; and three lady teachers, who devote themselves exclusively to the Piano, Reed-organ, and Point-Print

classes. This arrangement makes a very fair distribution of labor as far as it goes, but I would strongly urge the desirability of having *more* of the master's services.

" According to the present arrangement there can be only one class in each of the subjects which he teaches; consequently a large number of pupils are brought together who differ from each other very widely both in respect to attainments and ability to learn. I think that in each of these subjects there should be a rudimentary class formed at the beginning of every session, which should take in the new comers and those who have made comparatively little progress in the above-named branches. This arrangement would, of course, necessitate always having two classes in operation (primary and advanced) where now there is but one.

" I was particularly pleased with the knowledge displayed by the pupils in theory, and venture to say it would be difficult to find so large a number of students together in any educational institution whatever in the Province who could so readily and intelligently answer questions concerning harmony and musical theory, and, moreover, harmonize so correctly a given figured bass. Their proficiency in this respect reflects great credit on themselves and their teacher, Mr. Zinger.

" I had no opportunity of examining the pipe-organ class, but have no hesitation in saying that under the present arrangement it is simply impossible for students in this branch of music to make any satisfactory progress. There being no pipe-organ in the Institution, the pupils are obliged to take their lessons on one of the church organs in the city at intervals of two weeks. It is scarcely necessary to say that the lessons should be given much more frequently to be of any practical benefit to them. Moreover, the pupils have no facilities for obtaining pedal practice between their lessons. I understand, however, that this deficiency is soon to be remedied by placing a pipe-organ in the Institution. It is to be hoped that in supplying this much-needed article no false economy will be allowed to prevail. An organ, to be useful in the education of church organists, should be, in a general sense, *complete, though not necessarily a large instrument*, and the saving of a few hundred dollars in its purchase might, in a large measure, defeat the object for which it was designed.

" With regard to the singing class, it is only justice to Mr. Zinger to say that he has not yet had an opportunity of showing what he could do under favorable circumstances. The necessity for classification is perhaps more apparent here than anywhere else, as it is impossible to obtain satisfactory results where from fifty to seventy-five pupils, of all ages, are crowded together in one class. I would suggest, however, that more stringent rules regarding the attendance and discipline of this class, be adopted and enforced than have latterly prevailed. There exists also the same reason for having two classes in point print (there is only one at present) that I met in connection with the singing-class.

" The piano and reed-organ classes seem to be in as satisfactory a condition as would be possible under the present circumstances. The teachers in these departments are, as far as I am able to judge, not only competent for their work, but extremely painstaking and faithful in the performance of their duties. Some of the pupils have made remarkable progress under their instruction, and I heard several individuals among them perform both on the piano and harmonium in a manner which would have been highly creditable to pupils of the same age blessed with the full use of all their faculties. In the piano department there exists a special need for classification. I refer to those students intending to make the *teaching of music* a profession. It is obvious that such pupils should go through a more extensive course of study than the others, and to do this they require more time devoted to them by their teacher, as well as greater advantages in instrumental practice, study of theory, etc. I would suggest that when such pupils complete their course at the Institution, they should be awarded first, second, and third class certificates, according to their ability,

" In the instruction given to the piano and harmonium classes, more attention might advantageously be paid to technical matters.

" There should first be a uniform system of *touch* agreed upon by all the teachers, and following that, mechanical exercises invented which would be adapted to the special needs

of the blind pupils, in developing a correct and refined technique. This would not only give them greater mechanical dexterity with their instruments, but would correspondingly increase their powers and means of expression.

"I would also strongly recommend that the pupils' practising should be carried on as much as possible under the supervision of a teacher or some other person appointed for that purpose. One thing in connection with the pupils' practising that is extremely detrimental to their progress, is the present arrangement of having two or more instruments in the same room, all being used at the same time. The effect of this is to accustom the ear to discord, thereby greatly weakening, if not destroying, all of one's finer musical sensibilities. Each practice-room should contain but one instrument, and should otherwise be perfectly quiet while being used as such.

"In connection with the Tuning Department, I would recommend that in case two classes are formed, as has been suggested, the advanced class should be instructed in tuning *all* the instruments in the Institution, instead of being confined to one very poor piano, as is now the case. This arrangement would insure the instruments being always kept in good order, and would, moreover, give the pupils valuable experience in becoming acquainted with the mechanism of various styles of instruments. In this connection I would recommend, too, that as there is no tri-chord instrument in the Institution at present, the next piano purchased for the use of the pupils should be either an 'upright' or a 'grand' in order that the peculiarities of these instruments might be better explained and made familiar to them,

"Lastly, with regard to the Piano-tuning Department, there should be supplied a complete outfit of tuners' tools, together with some of the ordinary material used in repairing piano actions, such as felt, etc. The Institution is almost entirely deficient of these articles at present.

"The reed-organs require being thoroughly tuned and repaired before the beginning of another session, some of them at present not being fit for use.

"I would again emphasize particularly the recommendation to have a very careful classification of pupils made at the beginning of each session, as well as a thorough examination of those entering the Institution at other times, before allowing them to commence the study of music.

"It is obvious that intending pupils should first show evidence of some degree of talent before being allowed to possibly waste much valuable time of their own as well as that of their teachers, through having made an unwise choice of studies; and it is very probable that the 'weeding-out' process might be advantageously employed in a few instances among the present pupils of the department.

"In conclusion, I beg to express the belief that in the person of Principal Dymond the music pupils of this Institution have a Superintendent who is in full sympathy with their requirements, and who will do his utmost to promote their progress in every possible direction.

"With such pleasant surroundings as they enjoy, the many facilities for gaining knowledge which are afforded them, and the improvements that are constantly being made for their benefit in the way of modern inventions and appliances, I think the pupils of this Institution may fairly be congratulated. Indeed, it is not too much to expect that the time is not distant when the Ontario Institution for the Blind will be inferior to no similar institution in the world, either in its musical advantages or otherwise.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed) "EDWARD FISHER"

The recommendations contained in the foregoing reports have generally been accepted, and the suggestions are being acted upon as quickly as the reorganization of the respective classes permits of.

MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES.

The following statement exhibits the expenditures of the Institution, under the various headings, and the cost per pupil:—

	Amts. actually expended	Cost per pupil on daily average of 170.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Salaries and wages.....	13134 42	77 26
Medicines and medical comforts	71 30	0 42
Butcher's meat, fish and fowl.....	2669 97	15 71
Flour, bread, etc	1279 45	7 53
Butter	1185 72	6 98
General groceries.	2338 10	13 75
Fruit and vegetables.....	179 06	1 05
Bedding, clothing, &c	399 82	2 35
Fuel.....	3607 82	21 22
Light.....	1217 68	7 16
Lauudry, soap and cleaning.....	352 98	2 08
Furniture and furuishing.....	255 98	1 51
Farm, feed and fodder.....	816 28	4 80
Repairs and alterations.....	663 70	3 90
Advertising, printing, stationery, and postage.....	509 72	3 00
Books, apparatus and appliances.....	822 90	4 84
Unenuinerated	529 40	3 11
Total.....	30,034 25	176 67

As compared with that for the previous year, the expenditure for maintenance shows a reduction in the aggregate of \$309.07, and in the cost per pupil of \$2.84.

Only one name appears on the list of paying pupils; that of a youth admitted from the Province of Quebec, for whose board \$125 per annum was paid. All therest of the pupils receive the advantages of the Institution free of charge.

Report of the Principal for the year ending September 30th, 1881.

Brantford, Oct. 1st, 1881.

J. W. LANGMUIR, ESQ.,

Inspector of Asylums and Public Charities, Ontario.

SIR,—It will not be expected that a Principal, whose term of office has extended over less than six months—three of which have been occupied by vacation—should attempt a historical resume of the operations of the Institution under his charge for the past year. In the present case, too, the appointment was not only wholly unexpected, but it had been preceded by no previous experience or preparation for the duties it entailed. In this report, therefore, it will be merely necessary to glance at a few matters of interest which have occurred during the period above mentioned, to explain briefly on what principles it is proposed to carry on the work here, and to mention some needed improvements in connection with the future of the Institution.

But, in the first place, it is proper I should gratefully notice the cordial assistance received from the whole of the staff, without an exception, in entering upon my duties, and carrying out such measures as, after due reflection, have appeared to be called for. It was next to impossible but that a novice—not only in the work of teaching the blind, but also in that of education generally—should make some mistakes or commit some errors of judgment. If these have not been very numerous or serious, it is largely owing to the generous co-operation and ever-ready suggestions of associates whose past experience, cheerfully placed at my disposal, has proved invaluable. It is also especially gratifying to be able to say that, with the exception of one lady—the state of whose health, much to my regret, demanded her retirement—the whole of the staff found here when I took office are to-day my colleagues. How much this fact has tended to lighten a position always responsible, and in some respects onerous, will be easily understood.

From the 15th of April to the 23rd of May, Mr. Walter Wickens, head-master, and Mr. Thomas Truss, trades instructor, during my absence on leave, jointly discharged the duties of Principal with judgment and success, and I have since found the aid and counsels of these experienced officers of the Institution of especial value.

It is pleasant to be able to record that, both before and since the vacation, the conduct of the pupils has been good, with scarcely an exception. Many of the elder pupils have exhibited a marked desire to support the authority of the Principal and staff, and their example has had a very obviously beneficial effect on the juniors.

VISITS TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

At the desire of the Government—previous to becoming permanently resident here I visited the Institutions for the Blind at Batavia, in New York State, at New York City, and at Boston, Massachusetts. At all three places the kindness and hospitality of the respective Superintendents introduced me into close acquaintance with the system of training and education pursued by them, and afforded a large amount of information of the most practical nature. Some notes on the observations made during these visits are already in your hands. The three Institutions have all a much longer record than ours, and possess the most ample appliances for the education and training of the blind. In some respects—as must almost necessarily be the case—the progress made is in advance of that attained at Brantford, but, having regard to the fact that the Ontario Institution is now only in the ninth year of its existence, in no branch of useful and practical knowledge could I discover it had anything to be ashamed of, while in industrial training it certainly is ahead of either of those above-mentioned. At all three of the latter, however, particularly in regard to objective teaching, systematic physical exercise, and disciplinary treatment, a great deal was to be learned. Further reference to these, and some other matters noticed in the same connection, will be made later on.

EXAMINATION OF LITERARY CLASSES.

The examination of the literary classes by Dr. Kelly, Public School Inspector for the County of Brant, and Mr. Wm. Wilkinson, M. A., Principal of the Central (Public) Schools of Brantford, as well as the reasons which induced the Government to direct such an examination, and the contents of the Examiners' report, will be referred to, doubtless, in your report to the Lieutenant-Governor. To the Principal, and I believe I may say the whole literary staff of the Institution, this step gave sincere satisfaction, and by one and all its periodical repetition will be most cordially welcomed. The experience was an entirely new one both to the Examiners and pupils, but was rendered easy and far less formidable to the latter by the kindness and patience with which the examination was conducted. By meeting the Principal and teachers in friendly council, and eliciting the views of all on the different points that occurred to them, the Examiners were not only assisted in preparing their report, but were also assured beforehand of the cordial agreement of the staff with their several recommendations.

THE LATE MISS TYRRELL.

In alluding to some of the matters more particularly referred to by the Examiners, it is only right I should say, that the apparent want of classification of the pupils in certain branches of study was, to some extent, due to the recent death of Miss Tyrrell, for many years a most devoted teacher of the blind, and an officer of this Institution.

Miss Tyrrell was unknown to me personally, but those who knew her from childhood, as well as her late associates here, alike speak of her as a woman of rare gifts, of great executive ability, and of a most gentle and sympathizing nature. Learning from universal testimony what she was, and what she did for this Institution, I can only hope that, in something of the same spirit, those who are left to carry on the work from which she has recently been called away, may leave in their turn as worthy a record and as pure a name as hers. Miss Tyrrell's death having occurred in March, and at a time of some little unsettlement in the Institution, her pupils were temporarily distributed among the classes of other teachers, and they were found in this condition when, immediately after my settlement here, the examination took place.

CLASSIFICATION.

The need for a proper classification is undeniable, although, in the present instance, not so easily accomplished as at first sight might be supposed. At some future time I may venture, with more confidence than at present, to refer to a few of the peculiarities of the blind, and the difficulties experienced in dealing with them according to fixed rules. Suffice it here to say, that two days after the pupils had re-assembled, the capacity and circumstances—so far as known—of each one had been carefully considered, and their classification in every branch of study effected, at a conference of the Principal and literary staff.

The same course was then taken with the pupils—some sixty in number—who receive instruction in vocal or instrumental music.

Meantime the industrial departments were organized in a similar manner, and on the 30th September, or within a fortnight after the pupils had returned, a complete chart was prepared, showing—

1. The hours of each pupil's work or study.
2. The time devoted by every pupil to each branch of work or study; and
3. The grading of each pupil in each branch of study.

Starting from this point, and with the whole day's work spread out as on a map, readjustment from time to time is easy as pupils advance or fall behind in their respective classes. Periodical meetings of the staff will be held, at which these and other matters will be discussed and changes decided on. It will thus be seen that, whether successfully or not, an honest effort is being made to give effect to the Examiners' excellent advice in regard to a better classification.

MARKING FOR PROFICIENCY.

The suggestion of the Examiners in respect to marking for proficiency has also been carried out. Marks are given for actual proficiency in class, and for this only. The marking for proficiency in class is wholly distinct from the marking for conduct.

MARKING FOR CONDUCT.

A system of marking for errors of conduct, devised on the principle of one long in use in the New York City Institution, has been adopted. It applies to the behaviour of pupils, not in class only, but at all hours.

I may add, too, that, while frequent marking for mild offences, or one marking for a grave offence, may be followed by the exercise of corrective discipline, the main idea in this system is to assist pupils in forming good habits, and not necessarily to subject them to punishment.

GRADING AND RE-ADJUSTMENT OF CLASSES.

The recommendations of the Examiners under these heads have been, as nearly as practicable, carried out. A class has also been formed of pupils who, from some defect, mental or physical, cannot be taught effectually, or without inconvenience, in the regular classes. These, with an occasional new-comer who requires a certain amount of preparation before being classified, are instructed in various subjects under the general head of "Useful Knowledge" during a portion of the forenoon, and in writing or forming words from block letters in the afternoon. In their case, the great point gained is, that they receive individually and separately the teacher's attention. So far as tried, the plan appears to work very satisfactorily.

OBJECT TEACHING.

In connection with objective teaching, which should, to a very large extent, characterize all the instruction of the blind, some progress has been already made. The attention of the staff has been directed to the necessity for keeping this method prominently in view.

Two object classes meet daily, under Mr. Wickens and Miss Ross respectively, in which the teaching is wholly objective. Mr. Wickens has taken up physiology, and Miss Ross the construction of objects in every-day use, as the particular subjects of instruction. We are still, however, far from sufficiently provided with apparatus for object teaching. Some supplies from the stock remaining on hand of the Educational Depository have been very acceptable, but a further addition of materials at an early day is indispensable. Many of these can be improvised for the purpose, and a very moderate outlay will provide the most necessary. Mr. Wickens, with the aid of the carpenter, is now engaged in his leisure hours (by courtesy so called) in the construction of some dissected maps, for which an urgent need has existed.

LIMIT TABLE.

In the preparation of a sessional Limit Table for the literary classes, the assistance of the Examiners has been gratefully accepted, and a plan for the studies of the session has been mapped out and put in operation.

HOURS OF TEACHING.

It will be seen by reference to the daily routine of work furnished below, that the hours of study have been partially altered according to the suggestions of the Examiners; and, although the classes in the forenoon all rise at 11:50 a. m., by limiting three of the periods of intermission to five minutes each, and commencing in the afternoon at 1:50, the area of time suggested by the Examiners is almost fully occupied.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Systematic physical exercise is regarded at those institutions I have become acquainted with, as indispensable to success in the training of the blind. Whatever encouragement may be given to out-door walking, the blind are almost entirely deprived of those volun-

tary active games and pastimes that serve to develop the muscles and give vigor and robustness to the seeing youth. The substitute for these is to be found, in the case of blind young persons, in gymnastics or calisthenics, taught on a well-arranged, scientific method, which, in the course of a short lesson, brings every muscle of the body into play.

At Boston I had the privilege of seeing this system (Dr. Lewis's) in active and successful operation. Both there, and at New York and Batavia, the improved carriage and deportment of the pupils, as the result of their practice, was most noticeable. At Boston, the regularity and precision of the movements was very remarkable. In addition to the simpler exercises, dumb-bells, parallel bars, leaping bars, and ropes for climbing were provided and used, to the great enjoyment as well as benefit of the pupils, ample precautions against possible accident being taken. The girls were clad for the occasion in loose frocks or blouses, made of a cheap material, in order to avoid the casualties incidental to feminine attire when the wearer is in a state of active exertion. A roomy, well-ventilated gymnasium affords the fullest opportunity for all the movements. No better application of money appropriated to the training and education of the blind could be made. The belief that your views, and those of the Government, accord with my own on this question, induces me to hope that another session of the Legislature will not be allowed to pass over without an appropriation for the construction of a suitable gymnasium, with all useful appliances.

Meantime, and in order not to lose one day in securing, in ever so limited a degree, the results accruing from physical training, a school-room has been cleared, a series of gymnastic classes, including in the whole nearly seventy pupils, has been formed, and, under the direction of Mr. W. A. Shannon, a certain number exercise daily. Gradually the dumb-bells and other accessories, of which a home-made supply has been furnished, are being brought into use. Most of the pupils learn the movements quickly, and enter into them very heartily. Mr. Shannon, like myself, had the great advantage of a visit to the Boston and Batavia Institutions before commencing his regular duties here.

The purchase by your authority, of a couple of patent swings, for the boys and girls respectively, has furnished another means of healthy physical exercise.

I believe all the special recommendations of the literary Examiners have now been noticed, and I trust it has been made to appear that there is no lack of a desire on the part of the staff of the Institution to give effect to their practical counsels.

DAILY ROUTINE OF STUDY AND WORK.

To those who have relatives in the Institution as well as the public generally, a brief account of the daily duties of the pupils may be of some interest.

The bell for rising is rung at 6 a. m. At 7 a. m. the pupils breakfast. At 8 a. m. the pupils meet in the music hall for roll-call, and for devotional exercises, which are always conducted by the Principal.

The order of literary studies is then as follows:

a.m.	a.m.
8.30 to 9.15,	Arithmetic classes.
9.20 to 10.00,	Grammar and use of correct language.
10.05 to 10.50,	Geography.
11.00 to 11.50,	Literature and Reading classes.

The "Useful Knowledge" class meets concurrently with the two last above-mentioned.

At noon the pupils dine. They re-assemble for study at 1.50 p. m.

p.m.	p.m.
1.50 to 2.30,	Writing classes.
2.35 to 3.10,	History, and Object Lesson classes.
3.15 to 4.00,	Gymnastics, Bead-work, and, on Mondays and Fridays, a class in Chemistry by Miss Montgomery, and one in Point Print by Miss Jones.

The Instrumental Music, Sewing and Knitting classes, under their several teachers and instructors, assemble and disperse concurrently with the literary classes.

The workshop—where willow work is carried on—is open from 8.30 a. m. to 5 p. m., with an intermission of one hour for dinner.

On three afternoons in the week a vocal class, consisting of over forty pupils, receives instruction from Miss Nolan, of Brantford, an accomplished vocalist; the first division, of some twenty advanced pupils, meeting at two o'clock and practising till 3.15, when they are joined by the second division, and the whole class continues in session till 4 p. m.

On two afternoons in the week Mr. W. G. Raymond gives instruction in piano-tuning to a class of male pupils.

In addition to the time spent in class, every music pupil has a specific time allotted to him or her for practice daily.

The pupils take supper at 5.30 p. m.

The time between the hours of work or class studies, and 8 p. m. (except when a portion is allotted to music practice), is at the disposal of the pupils for recreation or preparation of lessons.

At 8 p. m. the male and female pupils meet in separate rooms to hear read the news of the day, or selections from some interesting book.

At 9 p. m. they assemble in the music hall for roll-call and devotional exercises, conducted usually by the Head-Master, Mr. Wickens.

They then retire for the night.

On Saturdays, the classes do not meet, and the work-shop closes at 1 p. m.

It may here be remarked, that, in allotting to the pupils their several studies and pursuits, consideration is given to the capacity, bent of mind, future prospects and pecuniary circumstances, so far as known, of each.

EXAMINATION OF MUSIC CLASSES.

The recommendations of Mr. Edward Fisher, of Toronto, Professor of Music, who examined the music classes at the close of last session, have received very careful attention.

The classification of the pupils has been effected in the spirit, if not absolutely in the letter, of Mr. Fisher's suggestions.

Professor Zinger having been relieved from the duty of teaching vocal music, now gives instruction in the pipe organ, harmony, and instrumental music exclusively.

The vocal class, conducted with much spirit by Miss Nolan, has already been mentioned.

As suggested by Mr. Fisher, there are now two classes for teaching Harmony and the Theory of Music, instead of one—the first for advanced pupils, the second for those that have made less progress.

Beginners, it is pleasant to notice, both in this and other branches of musical study, receive much help out of school hours from those whose proficiency is greater than their own.

THE PIPE ORGAN.

The advent of a pipe organ since the late vacation has given a fresh impetus to the study of music in the Institution. The instrument has been much admired, both for its very handsome and tasteful appearance, and its tone and quality. When inspecting it, preparatory to certifying to the due completion of the contract, Professor Fisher was good enough to give the pupils, and a few friends hastily notified of his presence, an organ recital, which, from so accomplished a performer, proved a rich treat to all present.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Fisher's recommendations respecting the adoption of a uniform system of touch have been carefully discussed and, to a large extent, carried out by the staff of teachers.

The instruments in use have been separated as far as practicable, and no two pupils practise in the same room, on different instruments, at the same time.

The purchase of an upright tri-chord piano as proposed, the acquisition already of an

upright piano.

additional tuning instrument, and the better equipment of the tuning department with tools, will pretty nearly complete the list of improvements suggested by the Examiner.

It will afford me much satisfaction to learn that Mr. Fisher at no distant day is to pay us another visit, in order that we may have the further benefit of his experience, after a more thorough examination than the short time at his disposal on the occasion of his first visit permitted.

VIOLIN CLASS.

No regular instruction is given on the violin, but, as several of the male pupils have violins, and desire to keep up their violin practice, they meet, with the sanction of the Principal, in a room allotted to them, twice a week, one of their number, who has acquired considerable proficiency, acting as leader.

THE WORKSHOPS.

Among the pupils engaged in the willow-work and cane-seating department, considerable changes have taken place since last session, owing to a number of senior pupils having completed their course and left the Institution. These included many of the most proficient workers. But several very apt learners have already made such good progress, that the production of the highest class of goods will probably be as extensive during the present as any previous session.

Mr. Truss and three of the pupils attended the late Toronto Industrial Exhibition, where their working, as well as the completed articles exhibited by them, attracted the attention of large crowds of visitors, and received favorable notices from the press. By this means, the very practical nature of the system of instruction adopted here, and the method employed to enable the blind to achieve success in an important handicraft business, have, it is believed, become more generally known than heretofore.

The reception-room at the Institution, recently re-floored with alternate strips of walnut and ash, has been completely furnished with articles manufactured in the workshops, including chairs, table, lounge, and show-case, and is an object of much interest to visitors.

SEWING AND KNITTING.

The sewing and knitting departments, like the workshop, suffered a temporary diminution of productive capacity from a similar cause. Both are exceedingly popular with the pupils, and a little firmness is required to prevent intellectual pursuits from being neglected in favor of industrial work. All the female pupils learning machine work have a knowledge of, or are instructed in, hand sewing or knitting, as the case may be, and, in fact, some acquaintance with hand knitting is possessed by a majority of the girls.

Two young men are instructed in the use of the sewing machine, and four in the knitting machine. I have every reason to believe, that, under the direction of Miss Loveys in the sewing branch, and Miss Algie in the knitting branch, the reputation already enjoyed by the Institution in these respects will be fully maintained.

BEAD WORK.

The Bead-work class, under the direction of Miss Ross, has been reorganized, and is in full working order. Many of the younger boys as well as girls purchase beads as a means of amusement in leisure hours.

OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION.

It may not be improper for me here to refer to the want of information as to the precise character and objects of the Institution, frequently brought under my notice.

LITERARY EDUCATION.

It cannot be too widely made known that this Institution is, primarily, a school to provide education for persons between seven and twenty-one years of age, who, by reason of a certain physical defect, are incapable of being taught in the ordinary schools of the country. A thoroughly good, practical education—as nearly as possible akin to that

which our Public School system gives to the seeing—is clearly the first thing to be aimed at, to make the blind useful and happy members of society. Too often blind children are either spoiled or neglected, and bring with them the effects of such early mismanagement. Parents, and sometimes their blind offspring also, are apt to ask, "What is the use of this or that literary acquirement?" forgetting that, to a blind person, a well-stored mind, capable of reasoning and thinking correctly, and, by the aid of early attainments, of receiving knowledge by whatever channel may be opened, is a priceless blessing.

MUSIC.

Next to literary culture comes music, to which some would fain even give precedence over the former. Not a few requests are received, that pupils, very ignorant in other respects, may be taught music, and this, in some cases, where little or no hope of proficiency being acquired can be entertained. But, on the other hand, vocal and instrumental music are among the few pleasures of the blind; they are an inexpressible solace in hours of isolation and loneliness, while the ability to play well, and still more to sing well, is a passport to much social enjoyment, and puts the fortunate possessor of these accomplishments in the position of one who gives, instead of needing, entertainment.

Moreover, at all Institutions for the Blind, music is taught as a profession in which a blind person may compete with fair chances of success. It is not reasonable to imagine that the loss of sight is a disadvantage ever wholly overcome, but, while prodigies are as scarce among the blind as among the seeing, a blind pupil with a musical talent may, by energy and perseverance, take a very good position in the ranks of instrumental and vocal performers, or, it may be, as an instructor of others. For all these reasons, even the most severely practical must admit that a fair share of attention to music is properly demanded as a branch of the education of the blind.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT.

If industrial employment is coupled with the mental and intellectual education of the blind, it is because: (1), the ordinary means of learning a trade are denied to the blind; and (2), because, for various reasons, the education of the blind is often neglected or retarded up to the period when industrial training must, if ever, begin. It is of infinite advantage to the blind child to enter the Institution young; to have a thorough course of study for a few years, and then to apply a large portion of his or her time, or the whole of it, to industrial work. And it is most encouraging to observe, from the considerably increased proportion of very young pupils, that the wisdom of an early admission is more and more appreciated. Meantime, the steps from the school-room to the work-shop, or work-rooms, are made as gradually as possible, and, while some pupils give their whole time, and others a large portion, to industrial work, many devote to it only two or three hours per day, and other apply themselves to literature and music exclusively. Where the pressure of circumstances does not interfere with the arrangements, the time devoted to industrial work is periodically lengthened, and that occupied in study correspondingly shortened.

But, to crowd the shops and work-rooms with pupils, and to turn out large quantities of work merely to create an exaggerated impression of what is being done there, is not a policy that would ever commend itself to my judgment.

The determination of the Government to check the admission of over-age pupils of course has a tendency to give the educational side of the Institution greater comparative prominence. Persons over twenty-one years of age naturally look chiefly to industrial training as more immediately necessary to them. Many of these have done honor to the Institution, and I am bound to say that, as a class, the over-age pupils engaged in industrial employment have given me no particular trouble or anxiety so far, nor do I believe they are likely to do so. Their close occupation, and the constant and judicious oversight of Mr. Truss, are exceedingly helpful in this respect. Still, it is perfectly evident that grave objections will always exist—more particularly in the case of male pupils—to the close association in one building of adults with children. And our premises do not af-

present admit of classification or separation founded on difference of age. But as there always will be adult cases of deprivation of sight which can only be met, if they are to be helped at all, by such an agency as this Institution affords, it may be well that the rule of exclusion should not be invariably enforced, and that admission should, discriminately, be granted, when the guarantees of good character are unquestionable, and some distinct advantage to the applicant is sought to be gained.

DISCIPLINE.

It will be obvious to every one that the system of discipline pursued in an Institution for the Blind, with a mixed population so widely differing in age, physical condition and mental training, cannot be administered according to any fixed rules or regulations. A pedantic educationist, a mere flagellating schoolmaster, would soon find his position intolerable, for, while he scared a few of the weaker sort into submission and order — or what passed for order — he would inevitably lose the moral support, sympathy and respect of all the rest.

On the other hand, the first necessity in such a community is the maintenance of discipline, obedience and order. And it is, I trust, well understood here, that while the mildest punishment is inflicted with reluctance, there is no punishment, lawfully applicable, that will not be resolutely and thoroughly administered if a clear necessity for it is shewn to exist. It would be rash indeed for me to predict that no such necessity will arise, but up to the present time the severest penalty has consisted in the seclusion of the offender on a limited dietary for a few hours, and that in not more than three or four instances. An abridgment or a withdrawal of privileges for the day is usually sufficient to act as a reminder or corrective.

But to be able to do this it is necessary, of course, that there should be privileges to abridge or withdraw. It has been my object to give the pupils all the liberty and enjoyment consistent with their personal safety and the good order of the Institution. From the first, I am convinced this has put a large proportion of the pupils on their honor. In scarcely any instance has the confidence reposed in them been abused, and then more from thoughtlessness than deliberate disobedience. Any exhibition of the latter involves certain punishment.

Undoubtedly a system such as above described demands greater vigilance on the part of the officers than one more directly and severely punitive. It is not by any means intended here to discuss or criticise the discipline of Public Schools, where, for a few hours in the day only, overworked teachers wrestle desperately with classes of fifty or sixty representatives of the free, active, juvenile life of the country. With us the pupil and teacher are brought, for nine months in the year, into close, familiar, and constant relations, while the frequent claims of the blind to the good offices of the seeing make those relations all the more personal and intimate. There is both time and opportunity for reading the character of the pupil, discovering its better or less agreeable features, and for exercising a patient sustained effort for improvement and amendment.

In fact, whether as regards the moral or intellectual training of the blind, the most useful and powerful agency is, free and unrestrained intercourse out of, as well as during study hours, with teachers whose own minds are well stored and whose characters are well established. No less important is it that the most perfect confidence should exist between the Principal and his associates; that they should be supported, so long as they merit his confidence, with all his authority; and that, whatever may be his private counsels to them, their influence with the pupils should never by his action be impaired. Nor is there in the by-laws one more necessary provision than that which requires the Principal to be always accessible to the pupils. They must individually feel that there is no trouble, difficulty or grievance on which they will fail to have a patient hearing from the head of the Institution. And on his personal knowledge of and acquaintance with each will largely depend the ability of the Principal to maintain his influence over the whole.

OVERSIGHT.

In order to secure the more regular oversight of the pupils, out of work or study hours, and to bring them into closer personal contact with the staff of teachers, two of the latter are always on duty—one of the masters on the male pupils' and one of the lady-teachers on the female pupils' side of the building. These officers are also present at the pupils' meals.

SECOND MASTER.

In this connection I may refer to the recent appointment of a second Master, in the person of Mr. W. A. Shannon, already mentioned as giving instruction in gymnastics.

It is one of Mr. Shannon's particular duties to watch over the male pupils when released from work or study. He endeavors to encourage them in taking active exercise; he takes his turn as one of the evening readers, and identifies himself with them in every way likely to accrue to their physical or moral improvement. Mr. Shannon also keeps the register of conduct marks. His presence here, too, removes a difficulty, experienced previously, in regard to the Roman Catholic pupils, when, during devotional exercises, or while attending religious services at their own church, they are separated from their companions. From Mr. Shannon's assistance in the above respects, as well as from his instruction of the preparatory "Useful Knowledge" class, already referred to, the best results are anticipated.

HOLIDAYS.

As affecting, in no small degree, the good order and discipline of the Institution, the subject of holidays may be briefly touched upon.

A three months' vacation in summer being found necessary, on various grounds, the session of nine months is short enough for the work to be done in it, without further interruption or curtailment, while a three months' holiday is surely sufficient for all the pupils' purposes. Hitherto it has been customary to secure return tickets for the pupils at single fares, running some ten days beyond the date of re-opening. A short margin—say a day or two—may be useful to cover any accidental delays or casualties; but my experience of one vacation leads me to believe that personal reasons—not necessity—are at the bottom of most delays in the punctual return of the pupils, and, with your approval, I propose in future that these shall only be allowed to prevail at the risk of the pupil having to purchase a new ticket.

Even more objectionable than some delay in re-assembling in September, is the practice of perhaps fifteen to twenty pupils returning home, for a longer or shorter period, at Christmas. The course of studies is interfered with, the pupils become unsettled, and the classes are demoralized, merely to indulge a few of the pupils with what the majority do not desire or are not able to enjoy.

If it is not possible all at once to put a stop to this undesirable custom, it may be well to consider the matter carefully before the commencement of another session. I am sure the whole staff of the Institution will heartily co-operate in any plans for making the Christmas and New Year season pass here as cheerfully as possible, and thus administer, as far as in their power lies, to the happiness and pleasure of those who remain at their studies.

PUPILS' CORRESPONDENCE.

The pupils are allowed to correspond with their friends as often as they please, and, if unable to write, can always command the services of one of their teachers. Once a month they all write, or have letters written for them, these monthly letters being franked by the Institution.

Pupils' letters are addressed for them and marked by a teacher, and placed, unfastened, in a locked letter-box in charge of the Principal, to whom also any pupil may bring his or her letter direct, if it is of a particularly confidential nature.

Letters are despatched and received in locked bags, of which only the Principal and City Postmaster have the keys.

Letters to pupils are opened by the Principal only. If the contents are of a very

private nature the Principal reads them himself to the pupils; otherwise they are handed by him in closed packets to the teachers on duty, to read to the recipients.

In noticing some recent absurd misstatements as to the practice pursued at this Institution in regard to pupils' correspondence, one or two very intelligent journalists committed the rather amusing mistake of alluding to the opening of pupils' letters as partaking of the character of espionage. They overlooked the very obvious fact, that, unless letters were opened for and read to them, blind persons could never know the contents. All we can do—and what we are bound to do—is to respect, as far as possible, the confidence thus imposed on us, and treat any little personal and domestic details with the utmost delicacy. That, I trust, is done both by Principal and teachers.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Every pupil not prevented by reasonable cause is expected to attend, on Sunday forenoon, the church of the denomination to which he or she belongs. The several parties of pupils are accompanied to their respective churches either by an officer of the Institution, or by some person volunteering to act as guide for the occasion and approved by the Principal. The very kind offices of Mr. Thomson (Presbyterian), Mr. Cox (Baptist), and Mr. Prior (Methodist), in this connection, are worthy of renewed acknowledgments.

After the Sunday morning roll-call and devotions, at 9 a. m., the Protestant pupils assemble for an hour in classes, and receive religious instruction from officers of the Institution.

In the afternoon a service, attended by the Protestant pupils, is held by one of the ministers of the city, who undertake the duty in rotation.

At the same time, the Roman Catholic pupils are instructed by two ladies of the Sisterhood of St. Joseph.

In the evening, officers of the Institution read from suitable books to the Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils respectively.

The cordial manner in which the whole of the clergy of the city have acted since my arrival here, and their deep interest in the welfare of the pupils, have been particularly gratifying and very helpful.

Where, as in the case of the Roman Catholics—and occasionally Protestant denominations—special services are held, or others than those above-mentioned, arrangements are made for the attendance of the pupils, always provided the latter are not absent from the Institution after sundown.

THE DIETARY.

Some anxious parents and friends may be interested, and, it is hoped, reassured, if they are furnished with a daily dietary of the pupils, and which is adhered to as closely as circumstances will permit. It is as follows:—

BREAKFAST.

DAILY. Milk, tea or coffee, bread and milk, porridge, bread and butter.
Pupils employed in the shops have also a plate of cold meat.

DINNER.

MONDAY.—Soup, beef (hot), potatoes, boiled rice (sweetened), bread.

TUESDAY.—Roast mutton or beef, vegetables (two sorts), suet pudding with sugar, bread.

WEDNESDAY.—Irish stew, cold meat, beets, potatoes, pies, bread.

THURSDAY.—Roast mutton or beef, vegetables (two sorts), bread pudding, bread.

FRIDAY.—Fresh fish, corned beef, vegetables (two sorts), baked rice pudding with fruit, bread.

SATURDAY.—Soup, beef (hot), potatoes, baked apples, bread.

SUNDAY.—Roast beef, potatoes and beets, pies, bread.

At tea (or supper)time the bill of fare consists of milk or tea, bread and butter or rolls, with some additional relish of one or other of the following: apple sauce, apples, buns,

seed or other kinds of cake, stewed prunes, cheese, gingerbread or ginger snaps. It will be observed that while the dietary is a liberal one (and no pupil is allowed), it is sought to secure as great a variety as possible. Peculiarities of taste and appetite are found among many of the pupils, the result, often, of early home indulgence, but also of delicacy of constitution. While, therefore, fastidiousness and daintiness are discouraged, special attention is paid by the officers in attendance at meals, to any cases where inability to partake of a sufficient quantity of the food prepared exists; and the instructions to the Matron—who is always present at the pupils' meals—are to provide anything in reason that may be required in such cases. The Principal, it may be mentioned, is in the dining-rooms for a longer or shorter period during most of the pupils' meals. He is also required, under the by-laws, to see that nothing is allowed to go into consumption that is not of proper quality.

SUPPLIES UNDER CONTRACT.

The provision of the by-laws relating to the examination of supplies, brings the Principal more or less directly into contact with the system under which some of the staple articles of consumption are purchased. I am aware, of course, of the arguments in favor of purchase by contract, and of the difficulty a Government is often placed in by pursuing a different course. Nevertheless, I have for a long time believed there is more disadvantage than benefit from it, in a large number of cases. Cheapness, or apparent cheapness, may be at first sight the ordinary result, but this is too frequently counter-balanced by an inferiority in quality, on which it is very hard to impose an adequate check. Let an agent of the Government, with the certainty of payment being forthcoming on a given day, go into the open market and invite competition, every dealer would try to secure his order by offering the best he had to sell at the lowest price. But let a contract be once sealed, and the temptation is immediately presented to supply the worst article that the officials on the spot can be induced to pass into store or consumption.

MEAT CONTRACT.

Take, for instance, our present contract for meat. It is one at which no dealer could supply regularly a really first-class article at a profit. And while, from the first, the struggle to procure an approximate or colorable observance of the contract has been, with occasional exceptions, continuous, to obtain really prime meat has been a very rare experience indeed. I do not mean that it has been unwholesome, but it has usually been poor, insipid, and evidently the product of inferior animals.

BUTTER CONTRACT.

In regard to butter, the recent high price has undoubtedly made a contract at 20 cents a very unfavorable one to the contractor.

Prime dairy butter has, it is well known, been extremely scarce, and at times hardly procurable here at any price. If we had a proper store-house for such an article, I am of opinion that a stock ought to be laid in at a favorable period, collected from different dairies or creameries, which would be much more satisfactory than the present hand-to-mouth system, accompanied as it is with continual discussion about quality over insignificant quantities, and not unfrequent rejections. It is right I should here say, that in endeavoring to secure a supply of these leading articles of standard quality, for the use of the Institution, the Bursar and myself have been in full accord, and any action I may have had to take has been with the view of supporting his efforts, rather than of objecting to his selections or over-riding his judgment.

COAL CONTRACT.

The deliveries of anthracite coal this year have, so far as we are able to judge, been quite satisfactory. Of the bituminous coal the first few wagon loads were very inferior to contract. My attention having been called to this by the Bursar, the deliveries were at once stopped, and the contractor duly notified. The result was that a superior article was

forwarded by the shippers to the contractor, and (your instructions having, in reply to a reference to you been received in the meantime) I felt authorized to allow the deliveries to proceed, believing that the terms of the contract were then being fairly observed.

THE GROUNDS.

The lateness of the open season in spring, and some changes in the staff at that period, rather deranged the early work of the farm, and made it advisable to divert therefrom as little labor as possible for ornamental purposes. With the exception of a few trees planted in place of others winter-killed, it was deemed best to do nothing in that direction this year. Ample preparation of the ground, and a careful selection of the trees, are indispensable to success in this soil and situation. Where this has been borne in mind in the past, good results have generally ensued, and because, to a very great extent, care in these respects has been taken, is due the improved and improving appearance of the grounds at the present time. A considerable number of the coniferous species are growing rapidly, and, with not a few deciduous varieties that have attained fair proportions, have a very beautiful effect. I venture to think, too, that the removal of some 250 small whitened posts, the utility of which I was not able to discover, will be approved by the good taste of observers. The late protracted drought was very trying to the young trees, and a few succumbed; but others, by the assistance of the water-cart, were saved, and, after losing their first foliage, put forth a second crop of leaves. I trust that a moderate appropriation for trees and tree-planting will figure in the Estimates for the coming year. An effort is being made to lay the foundation of a tree nursery in our own grounds, so that we may, in a few years, have a regular supply of the common species raised in the soil they are ultimately to be planted in. Our plans in this respect will be gradually matured. In such a matter experience is the only reliable guide.

The construction of a sidewalk from the city boundary to the new entrance on the eastern side of the grounds, has enabled us to give up a walk some 400 feet in length, leading to the former outlet, for the use of the female pupils exclusively. Ere long I hope, by other improvements, their walks may be still further extended in such a manner as to ensure them entire freedom from interruption or intrusion.

Walking exercise within the grounds is all the more necessary in their case, inasmuch as they are never allowed to leave the premises unless accompanied by an authorized guide; whereas the male pupils have the privilege of visiting the city daily, weather permitting, if their conduct justifies the permission. A good broad walk for the boys, from the front of the Institution to the lodge gate at the head of Palmerston avenue, is being gradually formed. I should be glad to see it constructed of plank, if the expense did not stand in the way. It will, when completed, give the male pupils an important extension of walking privileges within the grounds, and an independent outlet to the city.

THE FARM.

Until April last the duties of the persons respectively in charge of the grounds and farm were more or less divided and at times conflicting. This undesirable state of things was happily remedied before my arrival, by the appointment of a gardener, who is also a practical farmer, and who has, subject to the direction of the Principal, the entire management, since confirmed by by-law, of the whole grounds, farm, stock and vehicles. The selection of this officer was, so far as I have been able to judge, a good one; and while, from the lateness of the season in the first instance, and the protracted drought in the summer months, the year has been a trying one, the produce will, on the whole, be satisfactory.

Although the potatoes are, as a rule, smaller than in more favorable years, the supply, it is believed, will be equal to the wants of the family. Of root crops the yield will be quite up to the average, and in the most important root, the mangold-wurzel, the crop has been very fine indeed. Of garden stuff the supply has been ample. Fruit has been scarce, and although some trees in the orchard yielded a fair crop of summer apples, we shall have to depend for a winter supply entirely upon other sources. Preparations are

being made for the cultivation of small fruits, to which hitherto little attention has been paid.

The purchase of a stock of good grade cows for the year's supply has left a rather smaller balance to the credit of the farm account than would otherwise have been the case, but it is hoped that the better beefing qualities of the animals, when their time comes for being turned over to the butcher, will more than compensate for their original cost.

The substitution of pure-bred Berkshire pigs for common animals also promises to be attended with profitable results. The Berkshires, some sixteen in number, are thriving finely on the house refuse exclusively,

The purchase of a new team of farm horses, in place of those found here in April, has turned out well and proved an excellent investment.

The poultry department is not at present, to any of those concerned, a subject of congratulation. As it is commonly believed that some of the birds have been in residence here ever since the Institution was opened, the time has probably come for considerable changes in the poultry establishment.

The necessity, if any dependence was to be placed on the land attached to the Institution yielding a crop of produce, for supplying it with the elements of plant-life, has led to a very large amount of manure being collected from the adjacent city. But much of this having been applied in a green state, the result has been, not only one crop per annum of the respective farm or garden products, but several successive crops every year of imported weeds. The wonderful vigor and vitality of these intrusive plants passes all belief. The work to be done in merely keeping them under is incessant, and still they seem to be ever to the fore. No doubt this has in the past been, to a great extent, unavoidable. The soil had to be made, and crops got from it somehow. But it may, and I hope now will, be possible to introduce a more scientific method of treatment, and put some check on this expensive and harassing nuisance.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The nature of any extensive structural improvements will of course depend to a considerable extent on the prospects in regard to the number of pupils likely to be in residence during the next few years.

Our present expectations are, that some 150 will be the maximum of the present session, or 26 fewer than the number in attendance at the close of last session. If the policy of excluding, except in rare instances, pupils over twenty-one years of age is carried out, there will be with the annual retirement of a number over age, or attaining full age, now in residence, a tendency for a time rather to a continued decrease, unless the juvenile blind are more numerous at the present time than we have reason to believe. The enquiries made under the direction of the late Principal in this respect were, I am informed, very thorough, and Messrs. Truss and Wickens have, during the past vacation, traversed a considerable portion of the Province, visiting pupils and applicants for admission, and at the same time endeavoring to ascertain if others were to be heard of who were eligible.

It will probably be the desire of the Government that information under this head should be sought frequently and systematically, but I am inclined to think our present number will not be exceeded for some time to come.

Had the numbers of last session been sustained, an addition to the female pupils—or east-wing of the main building would have been necessary. With 150 pupils the accommodation, as far as mere residence is concerned, is sufficient. But there are other considerations not to be overlooked. Mr. Fisher's remarks on music practice suggest a rather pressing need. With our present stock of instruments I have had to place one in the officers' dining-room, one in a lady teacher's private room, one in the spare bed-room, and one in the first floor corridor, in order to isolate the pupils, while practising, from one another. It is also found necessary (although, as in the other cases just mentioned, very

inconvenient) to have a piano, used by the pupils, in the reception-room, and another in the officers' sitting-room. The effect of all this is, not only to subject the pupils practising to occasional interruptions, and in some instances to intrude on a privacy of which our staff enjoy none too large a share, but also to limit the hours at which the instruments can be used at all. The foundation of progress in music is practice under proper direction. In this respect we are sadly crippled and confined. The remedy is to be found in the construction of six or eight small rooms for piano and organ practice. A very slight partition suffices to prevent discord taking the place of harmony. In arranging for practice rooms, the prevention of any association of male and female pupils must be kept in view.

The need for a good-sized sitting-room for the female pupils is also much felt, particularly in the winter months. It should be an apartment roomy, airy and warm, where they could sit at work, talk, and enjoy themselves. At present they resort to their dormitories, greatly to the detriment of the tidiness and due ventilation of the latter. The school-rooms are needed for study.

For the female pupils there is no hospital ward. At the present time a girl whose symptoms threatened typhoid fever (happily averted) occupies one of the rooms in the boys' hospital ward. The absolute necessity of providing the sick girl with perfect quiet, and the undivided attention of a nurse,—which was impossible so long as she remained in the girls' bedrooms, or even in the girls' nurse's room, known as the "Sanitarium," exposed as all these are to intrusion at every moment,—induced me to place her where she is. But the occurrence of one of those epidemics from which no institution of this kind can expect to enjoy entire immunity, would, if it attacked both sides of the Institution, have made such an arrangement impossible. There is then, at present, no provision for the isolation and proper nursing of a girl seriously ill.

With the reduced number of girls, I have been able to lodge them all in their own wing, but the private room of two of the lady teachers, and the ladies' bath-room, are in what are, distinctly, the male pupils' quarters—an arrangement most disagreeable to the ladies, and in my opinion, for various reasons, very unseemly.

The bathing accommodation of the female pupils is also very deficient. There are only two baths for the whole of them,—more than sixty in number.

It occurs to me that, without going to so heavy an expense as the last extension involved, an addition might be made to the east wing securing, on the ground floor, a good, airy, play and sitting-room for the female pupils, and a sufficient number of music practice rooms for their use; and on the upper floor an additional bath-room for the female pupils, accommodation so far as required for the lady teachers, and a sick ward capable of isolation in case of need.

In connection with the main building, too, I may remark, that the situation of the bath and washing-rooms and private offices attached is highly objectionable, and, in my opinion, unhealthy. The atmosphere in the neighbourhood of some of them is at times very offensive, and never quite free from taint. If all these apartments could be thrust into small extensions in the rear of the building, connecting with the latter only by a narrow passageway, the advantage would, I believe, be very great and the expense not large. This would also leave, in the main building, space sufficient for two or three music practice rooms for the male pupils.

GYMNASIUM.

The construction of a gymnasium is, I trust, a foregone conclusion. It is desirable,

- (1) That it should be a large and well-ventilated room, some 60 feet long, 30 feet in width, and not less than 25 feet in its greatest height;
- (2) That it should be capable of being warmed; and
- (3) That it should, if possible, be on the ground floor.

In the last respect, from the experience we have had with the very simple movements performed on the floor of the west school-room, I doubt if any upper room would be suitable for the regular purposes of a gymnasium, unless supported by brickwork.

In connection with a gymnasium, it may be possible to consider the question of more commodious and well arranged dining-rooms. The rooms are now divided. It would be better if both male and female pupils took their meals in one suitable apartment. The present rooms being over the kitchen and laundry, are for the most part of the year very hot and uncomfortable, in addition to being inconveniently laid out. Time and labour could be economised by a change.

STORAGE OF SUPPLIES.

The want of proper storage rooms for supplies is one of the things claiming early attention. In a cellar under the kitchen and laundry are now situated the boiler and engine rooms, engineer's workshop, bakery, carpenter's shop, meat and produce pantry and store-room. There is not proper room for one of them as they are now crowded together. The Bursar's store-room is an apartment 16 feet x 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and 9 feet high, without hoist, and approached through the boiler and engineer's work-room. This is expected to contain everything except the perishable articles purchased for daily and immediate consumption. It will hold nothing worth calling a stock, and nearly everything has to be bought in consequence in retail lots, from hand to mouth, at a great disadvantage and loss. The place, too, is so crowded up that proper order and cleanliness are next to impossible. In my opinion, it is a discredit to every one connected with it. We consume large quantities of apples, but have no place to keep them in proper condition. In the absence of a refrigerator, or a suitable place to put one, butter and other goods affected by change of temperature can only be procured in little peddling lots. A roomy, accessible storeroom, furnished with a good refrigerator, would be a matter of simple economy.

THE STEAM BOILERS.

It is also desirable that the steam boilers and engines should be removed from the basement and placed in a separate building. While the reports of the official inspector, and the confidence I feel in the extreme care and good judgment of our engineer, are very reassuring, the possibility of an accident, terrible in its consequences, is never wholly absent from the mind.

COAL CELLARAGE.

Closely related to this objectionable arrangement is the want of proper shelter for our supply of coal. Our consumption of coal is represented by about 200 tons of hard and 400 tons of soft coal annually. It is singular that, with a railway from one of the centres of the coal supply, running close to the Institution grounds, every ton of coal is first shovelled into carts and then drawn a mile and a half to be dumped down in the lane in rear of our premises. It is well known that the less handling and shifting bituminous coal receives the better, and if it could be but once moved between the carts and its shed it would be well. But if that is impracticable, it is none the less important it should be economically treated when on our hands. Yet if it were deliberately intended to waste the coal, destroy its quality, and make as much labor as possible, the arrangements at present existing could not be worse than they are. The coal has no protection whatever. There is no coal shed, or apology for a coal-shed, on the grounds. An old "lean-to" that covered a small quantity was whisked away by a puff of wind last winter. The coal lies exposed to snow and rain on the bare earth, and when frozen up in the winter with snow, ice and sand well intermingled, has to be operated with a pick as laboriously (but with its quality deteriorated 25 or 30 per cent.) as when extracted from the mine. Every ton of the steam-coal has then to be teamed across to the engine-room, again fractured by being dumped into a bin, and, as if that were not enough, has to be once more moved in small quantities at a time to a spot whence it can be conveniently fed to the furnaces.

It would, I believe, be easy, at moderate cost, to secure at one and the same time a safe and commodious boiler and engine-room outside the buildings, and cellarage for all the coal we want; the steam coal contiguous to the boilers, and the balance where it could be easily moved to the kitchen, laundry and other points of consumption.

I am, Sir, respectfully yours,
A. H. DYMOND, Principal.

STATISTICS

For the year ending 30th September, 1881.

I. NATIONALITIES.

	No.		No.
American.....	4	Irish.....	48
Canadian.....	70	Norwegian.....	1
English.....	48	Scotch.....	18
French.....	3	Wendish.....	3
German.....	6		
			201

II. RELIGION.

	No.		No.
Baptists.....	6	Lutherans.....	7
Bible Christians.....	2	Methodists.....	57
Congregationalists.....	3	Presbyterians.....	30
Davidites.....	2	Quakers.....	2
Disciples.....	1	Roman Catholics.....	34
Episcopalians.....	55	Tunkers.....	1
Jews.....	1		
			201

III.—AGES.

	No.		No.
6 years.....	1	17 years.....	15
7 " "	3	18 " "	10
8 " "	5	19 " "	13
9 " "	6	20 " "	16
10 " "	3	21 " "	11
11 " "	12	22 " "	10
12 " "	9	23 " "	8
13 " "	9	24 " "	9
14 " "	5	25 " "	9
15 " "	10	Exceeding 25 years.....	26
16 " "	11		
			201

IV.—OCCUPATIONS OF PARENTS.

	No.		No.
Actor.....	1	Miner.....	1
Agents.....	2	Painters.....	3
Artist	1	Plumber.....	1
Auctioneer	1	Pedlar.....	1
Axe grinder..	1	Physician	1
Barber... .	1	Police constable.....	1
Blacksmiths.....	5	Pump-maker.....	1
Butcher.....	1	Saddler.....	1
Cabman	1	Sailor	1
Carpenters....	13	Steamboat engineer.....	1
Clerks.....	2	Stonecutter.....	1
Conductor.....	1	Shoemakers	2
Coopers	2	Surveyors	2
Customs officer.....	1	Tailor	1
Educator	1	Teamster.....	1
Farmers.....	74	Tow agent.....	1
Gardeners.....	3	Tradesman.....	1
Hostler	1	Vessel agent.....	1
Hotel-keepers.....	2	Veterinary surgeon.....	1
Laborers.....	37	Waggonmaker.....	1
Merchants.....	9	Weaver.....	1
Millers	2	Not stated.....	13
Millwright.....	1		
			201

V.—ATTENDANCE.

		Males.	Female.	Total.
Attendance for portion of year ending 30th September, 1872		20	14	34
" " year ending 39th September, 1873.....		34	24	58
" " " " 1874.....		66	46	112
" " " " 1875.....		89	50	139
" " " " 1876.....		84	64	148
" " " " 1877.....		76	72	148
" " " " 1878.....		91	84	175
" " " " 1879.....		100	100	200
" " " " 1880.....		105	98	203
" " " " 1881.....		103	98	201

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT, INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
BRANTFORD, October 6th, 1881.

J. W. LANGMUIR, Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities.

Sir,—In presenting the Annual Medical Report of this Institution, I may first observe there is a great similarity in the working and experience of this department year after

year, the maladies treated in the past twelve months being mainly a repetition of those encountered in previous years.

Any intelligent physician who has ever observed our pupils as they were assembled, has discerned in the arrested physical development, in the defective intellect, in the curved spine, in the tottering gait, in the scarred markings of scrofula, as well as in the blighted eyeball and diseased eyes before him, that a large proportion of our pupils present a condition of system to invite and encourage, rather than to resist, the encroachments of disease. On this account these boys and girls must be kept in the best sanitary atmosphere possible, and to ensure this desirable result the subjects of ventilation, of warming, of sewerage, of water supply, of varied and nutritious food and general hygiene, demand the closest scrutiny.

A considerable number of our pupils have inherited or acquired scrofulous constitutions, and require a liberal use of cod liver oil and other anti-scrofulous remedies to save them from the diseased manifestations of such a cachexia. Others, again, have been afflicted with naso-pharyngial catarrh, and have received the local treatment to avert the deafness to which such cases are especially prone. Still another class have been the subjects of epilepsy; and here the preparations of bromine, in the form of the various bromides, have shown their power to lessen the frequency of the seizures in a very marked degree. The percentage of pupils who have suffered from the "thick neck" (bronchocele) is so large as to excite the suspicion of some local exciting cause, and for this disfiguring ailment the preparations of iodine, by their absorbent action, have always caused these enlargements to disappear.

At the opening of last spring, several female pupils had severe attacks of erysipelas of the head and face, and just as we began to fear an epidemic of this disease, the removal of the storm-sash, permitting better ventilation, had the effect of arresting its further progress.

It is cause for thankfulness that though the much-dreaded disease of childhood, scarlet fever, again made its appearance during the past winter, yet all the cases, numbering nearly a score, happily terminated in recovery, notwithstanding the prevalence at the same time of a malignant and fatal form of this exanthem in the neighboring ward of the city.

Under the new management of the Institution, a diet better adapted to the requirements of the pupils, and especially the young children, is to be allowed, particularly in the use of milk, which has all the constituents to form the bone, and blood, and the muscle of the growing child. Another much-needed reform is being introduced in appointing a regular system of physical exercise, including outdoor walks, which must largely contribute to the general healthfulness of all concerned. In order to carry out the spirit of these improvements, a gymnasium will be highly necessary.

I am again permitted to make the gratifying statement of no deaths having occurred among the pupils, yet it becomes my painful duty to record the demise of the highly-esteemed teacher, Miss Tyrrell, after a long and most distressing illness. Her death was caused by a complication of disorders quite fatal to their nature, the seeds of which, long sown in the body, were doubtless quickened into life and activity by a mild attack of scarlet fever. The most marked pathological changes were in the brain, which, strangely enough, produced almost total blindness before the fatal issue.

The food supplied has been generally satisfactory in respect to quality, quantity and variety.

My thanks are due to the present excellent Principal for putting into prompt execution all needed sanitary regulations, and for his cordial co-operation generally in the discharge of my various duties.

I have the honor to be, respectfully yours,

W. C. CORSON, M. D.

